

Our nation's admiration and respect for the firefighters, police officers and medics, many of whom lost their lives in the line of duty, in deep. Valor, courage and selflessness were commonplace yesterday, as many rescuers became victims themselves.

Our hearts go out to the victims' families and friends who today must cope with their excruciating loss. As shock abates, the numbing pain of yesterday's terror will leave indelible scars. May God supernaturally intervene with healing, comfort and peace.

Mr. Speaker, the cowards who perpetrated these crimes against God and Humanity must be brought to justice no matter how long it takes. And, by the grace of God and the crafting of wise policy initiatives, this must never happen again.

Two years ago, in light of the growing danger of international terrorism, I authored the Embassy Security Act (H.R. 3427) to provide \$6 billion to make America's foreign embassies and missions stronger and safer. This week, we learned that even this large sum was not enough to deter those with an absolute disregard for the value of human life. We must and will do more.

Those who wish us harm should know that Americans are strong, determined and resilient. America is united, not to be underestimated.

In like manner, President Bush is strong and determined, fully in charge, not to be underestimated, and will lead us with boldness and prudence.

Finally, America's foundational strength isn't to be found in its military might or relative prosperity—but in our individual and collective faith in, and faithfulness to, God.

May this horrific act of mass violence compel us to turn anew to God seeking healing, restoration and justice, as well as divine guidance, so that His will *will* be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REGARDING TERRORIST
ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from New Jersey and California for their leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues who have offered their voices before mine, I too arise in strong and unyielding support of this resolution.

We are a strong and a resilient people who have, in our past, been called to duty, to preform extraordinary feats in extraordinary times.

Minute by minute reports of heroic events continue to flow in from all sites of this tragedy. These reports, each and every one, bear witness to the long held belief that we are a people of purpose and our actions, in this time of crisis, are guided by our love of our fellow men.

Many generations ago we were warned that each generation would be called upon to polish, sustain and improve this great republic. We were also told that these occasions could come disguised in many ways.

Tuesday's events have signaled to this generation, to those of us here, to those we represent, to every man, woman, child, individually and collectively, that our time, our test and our challenge, to maintain our republic's destiny to be the beacon of hope and freedom for the world is here and now, the wait is over, the question is answered.

My heart and my hand is offered, along with every other in this historic room as a supporter and a champion of this resolution. I am confident, Mr. Speaker, should I enjoy the technology to ask, right now, each and every resident of Idaho's First District the question of how I should vote on this measure, there would not be a dissenting vote.

Let's note for the record, Mr. Speaker, that we Americans chose neither the time nor the place for this, but that those soul-less terrorists who have made their choice known by these acts, have grossly underestimated the sterling resolve that historically visits this Nation during our time of need.

Mr. Speaker, we must now bury our fallen, and with heavy hearts, prayerful lips, but a firm belief that our lost are with our Creator and have joined in a celestial song to march us into the battle which we now willingly engage.

May the very God, whose existence these terrorists deny, grant them sufficient time on this Earth to have these horrors visited on each and every one of them and anyone else who may have given them cause or quarter.

May this same God smile on this vote we now offer, this nation we speak for and this purpose we undertake.

SIKHS ARE NOT MUSLIMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in general I have been proud of America's response to the attack on our country that took place Tuesday. There have been no threats against the embassies of countries that might be involved. There have been no riots while the police have been concentrated in one particular area. However, there is one disturbing element. A number of Sikhs have been attacked by ignorant people seeking to vent their anger at what happened. In New York, an old Sikh man was beaten with baseball bats. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked Wednesday afternoon in Brooklyn. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. Apparently, these Sikhs were targeted because of their turbans and beards, which are required by their religion.

It would be grossly unfair to attack Muslims, even though Mr. bin Laden, who appears to be the prime suspect, claims to be an adherent of the Muslim faith. I know many Muslims and they are good people who are not involved in this kind of activity in any way. Yet

what makes these attacks even stranger is that Sikhs are not Muslims. They don't even wear a turban the same way. Sikhism is an independent religion. It is not part of Islam; it is not part of Hinduism. Sikhs are identified by five specific markers: uncut hair covered by a turban, a kirpan, or ceremonial sword, a bracelet, special underwear, and a special comb. These are distinct identifiers and are required by the Sikh religion.

I call on the media to report on the attacks on Sikhs and note the fact that they are not connected to the terrorist campaign in any way and have, in fact, condemned it. I urge the media to speak out against the attacks, and I urge President Bush to do the same. Let's not attack anyone for his or her religion or the way he or she looks. Those who do so are cut from the same cloth as Mr. bin Laden. In America, we do not accept that.

The Council of Khalistan, which is the organization representing Sikhs, has written a letter to the President and a press release strongly condemning the attack Tuesday. I would like to place them in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS ATTACK ON
UNITED STATES

URGES SIKHS TO GIVE BLOOD

WASHINGTON, D.C., SEPTEMBER 12, 2001.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the brutal attack on the United States that occurred yesterday.

"On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails," Dr. Aulakh said.

"I urge Sikh Americans to give blood and to pray for the victims, for their families, and for all those who are helping our country and our communities in this time of need," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must do our part as American citizens," he said. "We stand together as a nation."

"Like all Americans and all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal and senseless attack. The Sikh religion recognizes all the human race as one and we pray for the well-being of all. Our prayers and our sympathies are with the people of the United States at this tragic time. We especially pray for the families of those who have departed."

"This tragic event happened in the most diverse city in the world," Dr. Aulakh said. "There is hardly a national or ethnic group that has not been touched directly by this tragedy. Our sympathies are extended to those who have been touched personally," he said. "Violence against innocent people of any religion or ethnicity is unacceptable. It must be ended."

Unfortunately, some people have engaged in violence against Sikhs in the wake of the bombings yesterday. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. A Sikh boy was even shot in New York.

"Today we all stand together as Americans, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity," he said. "We must not accept terrorism. We must unite against this evil," he said. "We must work to bring all Americans together to defeat this brutal enemy."

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States, The White
House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails. This is a terrible tragedy and we know that you will take appropriate action. Like all Americans and all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal and senseless attack.

The Sikh religion recognizes all humanity as our brothers and we pray for the well-being of all. Our prayers and our sympathies are with the people of the United States at this tragic time. We especially pray for the families of those who have departed. May God bring peace to these departed souls and to their families.

We support you and we pray for the people of America. God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call number 338. I would have voted "yes" on this resolution condemning the terrorist attacks earlier this week.

COMMENDING RESCUE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the numerous rescue workers and volunteers around the country in their recovery efforts during this terrible tragedy. These brave and heroic citizens are working around the clock to bring calm and restore peace into our beloved nation. Again I wish to convey my thanks and prayers to these courageous rescue workers, their families, and everyone affected by this horrific chain of events; including Captain Jack Patches, Jr., whose mother resides in Ramsey in Fayette County. A retired Navy captain, he had worked in military intelligence and was at his desk at the Pentagon when the atrocious events of Tuesday occurred. He had a long and distinguished military career, holding command positions during the Persian Gulf War while logging more than 7,000 flight hours as a pilot of a P-3 submarine hunter aircraft. Captain Patches is survived by his wife Janice, his daughter Jennifer, and his son Jeremy.

I ask again, may God bless these rescue workers, may God bless the victims and their families, and may God bless our country.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, sixty-two years after the horrible tragedy. Memorial Services will be held on September 16, 2001, at the Katyn Monument site in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Following Nazi Germany's unprovoked attack on Poland on September 1, 1939, Polish troops stood up to a better-equipped and larger army, eventually succumbing to the incredible odds several weeks after Soviet troops viciously attacked from the East. While Polish forces were vastly outnumbered and overextended, they fought vigorously and valiantly on two fronts. Following its defeat, Soviet and Nazi victors immediately placed Poland under their harsh and brutal occupation.

In the Spring of 1940, Soviet-led forces brutally killed and tortured over fifteen thousand Polish men, women, and children. One of the sites of these barbaric and inhumane acts was the Katyn Forest, where four thousand bodies were later discovered.

Today, I honor the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre. I commend their courage and sacrifice. They stood strong in the face of genocide and appalling brutality.

I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering the victims of the Katyn Forest Massacre, and I ask that we honor their sacrifice for freedom.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTA- TIVES REGARDING TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, an act of terrorism took the lives of thousands of innocent Americans. No American is exempt from the pain and anger that resulted. I know I speak for everybody in the First Congressional District of Tennessee when I send their thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of those who are casualties of this act of terror. Our thoughts and prayers also go to the thousands of individuals who have responded to the scene and are working non-stop in the rescue and recovery efforts.

It is important that we take the appropriate steps to deal with this matter. The government is functioning and providing the necessary services to deal with the aftermath of the events in New York and Washington. Every necessary resource will be made available to assist in the search, rescue, and recovery efforts. In addition, our law enforcement authori-

September 13, 2001

ties, intelligence services, and military personnel are moving swiftly in their investigations. A number of positive leads are being pursued, and I am confident that we all know the names of all that are responsible. We have a suspect whose numerous threats are tantamount to an admission. We have the ability to continue to accumulate evidence to prove his guilt.

I applaud the President in his immediate forceful response to this tragedy. He has mobilized our armed forces and directed all appropriate federal agencies to respond to rescue efforts. I also applaud the leadership of a united Congress. The leadership of both parties have communicated the support of the Congress to the President, and he will have the full support of the legislative branch of our government to provide the necessary resources for recovery and rebuilding, as well as the resources that will be needed to provide the appropriate responses to the perpetrators of this crime. We will use these resources to find those responsible and to see that justice is served.

As difficult as it is at this time, we must move forward. We cannot give in to the demands of terrorism. The American resolve is stronger than ever. It is a mistake of terrorists to believe that they will divide us. They have brought us together in ways that many people did not believe could happen. It is a mistake of terrorists to believe that we will cower in fear as a result of their actions. They have only strengthened the willpower, purpose, and determination of all Americans.

One of the most cherished freedoms in this country is the right to disagree. Honorable citizens have the right to voice their disagreements with each other without fear of reprisal. Quite often, Members of Congress find themselves engaging in quarrelsome debate over a variety of issues, which now pale in comparison to the matter that we must deal with in the upcoming days and weeks. Despite these disagreements, the U.S. has always stood for what is right in the world—freedom and democracy. The terrorists believe our ability to disagree is a weakness, and that they can exploit this. They are wrong.

The final casualty numbers will be high—too high to reasonably comprehend. Despite this tragic loss and the crumbling of America's buildings, America's foundation is strong. The history of this great nation proves that when the U.S. is roused—the U.S. fights—and the U.S. wins. We will stand together, outraged and resolute, and we will go to any length to bring these criminals, and those who aid and abet them, to justice. We will have not properly paid our respects to those who have died until their killers are brought to justice.

From this point forward, the rest of the world, and particularly those who harbor hatred and resentment against the United States, will learn that our strength and courage will not tolerate the acts of terrorists. We may never know the specific message these terrorist groups were trying to send to America. I do know that they will ultimately receive a response from America that will be loud and clear. God bless the United States of America.